

## **PSY201: Qualitative Research Methods (Winter, 2012)**

Dr. Stephen Dine Young  
Office: Science Center 156  
Class Times: M W 4-5 (.5 Units)  
Office Hours: M F 1-2; W 10-11 & by appointment  
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### **Course Description and Goals**

This course is intended to give students an introduction to the qualitative methods that are commonly used in psychology. Qualitative methods (in contrast to correlational and experimental methods) will be understood as those that emphasize: narrative data sources; self-conscious interpretive processes; and an intentional presence of the researcher in the process of inquiry. The methods include case studies, focus groups, interview-based studies, participatory observational studies, textual analyses, etc.

There are four specific goals in regard to your learning about qualitative methods: 1) Understand critiques of mainstream research techniques and the rationale behind qualitative methods; 2) Increase student reflection on basic epistemological issues in all types of psychological methods; 3) Give students skills in conducting qualitative projects; and 4) Provide students with a larger range of possible methodologies for their senior research project.

### **Texts**

Willig, C. (2001). *Introducing Qualitative Research in Psychology*. Philadelphia: Open University Press.

### **Evaluation**

Your evaluation in this course will be based on the following:

- 1) Attendance and Participation (25%).
- 2) An informal weekly journal where you keep track of your reflections about the readings, class discussions, your project and other psychology classes (25%).
- 3) A final research project where you conduct a small scale qualitative research project. Both the topic and the method will be of your choosing. You will plan your project in consultation with the course instructor as the semester progresses. The results of projects will be presented both in formal written form (10-15 pages) and in informal oral form to the other students in the class (50%).

## Class Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
1/9	Introduction	No reading
1/16	Underlying Ideas	Willig, Ch. 1
1/23	General Methodological Issues	Willig, Ch. 2
1/30	Grounded Theory	Willig, Ch. 3
2/6	Interpretive Phenomenology	Willig, Ch. 4
2/13	Case Studies	Willig, Ch. 5
2/20	Evaluating Qualitative Research	Willig, Ch. 9
2/27	<b>Winter Break</b>	
3/5	Qualitative Research Examples	Willig, Appendices
3/12	Qualitative Research Examples	Willig, Appendices
3/19	Class Projects	--
3/26	Class Projects	--
4/2	Class Projects	--
4/9	Class Projects <b>(Final projects due last day of class)</b>	--

Week of 4/16 **No Final Exam**